REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit that no prohibited new matter has been introduced by this Preliminary Amendment and that claims 1- 4 and 6-18 including amended claims 2 to 4 and newly added claims 11-18 are drawn to the same invention as claims 1-10 of International Application PCT/FR00/01975. The changes to the claims were made to bring the claims into compliance with US rules and do not represent a narrowing of the claimed subject matter. The changes designed to avoid objections are multiply dependent claims have been removed to avoid multiply dependent claims depending from multiply dependent claims (see original claims 4, 9 and 10); the re-phrasing of original claim 10 which was drafted as a "use" claim has been correctly presented as method claims 17 and 18; sequence identifiers have been introduced where necessary; the sequence options for amino acid X_{12} in the sequence of claim 2 have been corrected to reflect the options presented with respect to the two sequences in original claim 3. Similarly, the sequence set forth in claim 2 has been corrected in the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 of the specification to reflect the sequence options for amino acid X_{12} as lysine or valine as indicated in the sequences set forth in original claim 3. The method of treating infections claimed in new claims 17 and 18 is further supported by Example 2 on pages 8 - 11 of the specification.

A marked-up version of the changes to the specification and comparing amended claims 2-4 to original claims 2-4 is attached.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,
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Marked-up Version of the Amendments

As to the substitution of the paragraph bridging pages one and two:

According to a preferred embodiment of an antimicrobial peptide in accordance with the invention, it comprises the following sequence (I) (1-letter code):

$HX_1HX_2CTSYX_3CX_4KFCGTAX_5CTX_6YX_7CRX_8LHX_9GKX_{10}CX_{11}CX_{12}HCSR$ (I)

in which: X_1 = P or S, X_2 = V or A, X_3 = Y or W, X_4 = S or G, X_5 = S or G, X_6 = R or H, X_7 = G or L, X_8 = N or V, X_9 = R or P, X_{10} = L or M, X_{11} = F or A, and X_{12} = L or [H] V (SEQ ID NO: 5).--

As to the substitution of the paragraph on lines 6-11 of page two:

Advantageously, a peptide in accordance with the invention comprises one of the following sequences (Ia) or (Ib) (1-letter code):

HSHACTSYWCGKFCGTASCTHYLCRVLHPGKMCACVHCSR (Ia) (SEQ ID NO:6)

HPHVCTSYYCSKFCGTAGCTRYGCRNLHRGKLCFCLHCSR (Ib) (SEQ ID NO:7).

As to amended claims 2-4:

2. (Amended) The peptide of claim 1, comprising the following sequence (I):

$HX_1HX_2CTSYX_3CX_4KFCGTAX_5CTX_6YX_7CRX_8LHX_9GKX_{10}CX_{11}CX_{12}HCSR$ (I)

in which: X_1 = P or S, X_2 = V or A, X_3 = Y or W, X_4 = S or G, X_5 = S or G, X_6 = R or H, X_7 = G or L, X_8 = N or V, X_9 = R or P, X_{10} = L or M, X_{11} = F or A, and X_{12} = L or [H] V (SEQ ID NO: 5).

3. (Amended) The peptide of claim 2, chosen from the group consisting of:

- a peptide comprising the following sequence (Ia):

HSHACTSYWCGKFCGTASCTHYLCRVLHPGKMCACVHCSR (Ia) (SEQ ID NO: 6)

- a peptide comprising the following sequence (Ib):

HPHVCTSYYCSKFCGTAGCTRYGCRNLHRGKLCFCLHCSR (Ib) (SEQ ID NO: 7).

4. (Amended) A nucleic acid comprising a sequence encoding the peptide as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 3].